

HOW TO JOIN THE SOCIETY and/or DONATE TO THE MEMORIAL

Electronically. Transfer funds to the Society's bank account: Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society BSB 082-401 Account 16-083-2367. Bank NAB. Notify the deposit to richard@isaunders.com.au

By mail. Cheque to Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society at PO Box 1743, Neutral Bay NSW 2089.

By credit card [Visa or Mastercard]

Card no: _____

Expiry: _____ CVV no: _____

Name on card: _____

Signature: _____

Address: _____

Suburb: _____ State: _____ P'code: _____

Phone No: _____

Email: _____

MEMBERSHIP

(one postal/email address) - \$50

Gold membership - \$100

Life membership - \$500

ADDITIONAL DONATION:

\$50 \$100

Other amount:

The only way you can receive Memorial News is by becoming a financial member of the Society.

Your generous support will greatly assist our memorial - thank you.



Rabaul & Montevideo Maru

OFFICE BEARERS OF THE SOCIETY

Patron: Hon Peter Garrett AM MP

President: Phil Ainsworth

Vice-President: Hon Kerry Sibraa AO

Secretary: Andrea Williams

Treasurer: Richard Saunders

Public Officer: Donald Hook

Committee Members: Lindsay Cox, Marg Curtis, Frazer Harry, Liz Thurston

Honorary Legal Adviser: Collaery Lawyers

Honorary Auditor: Page Harrison & Co

The Office Bearers of the Society are unpaid volunteers

Email: andrea.williams@bigpond.com

Website: www.memorial.org.au

MEMORIAL

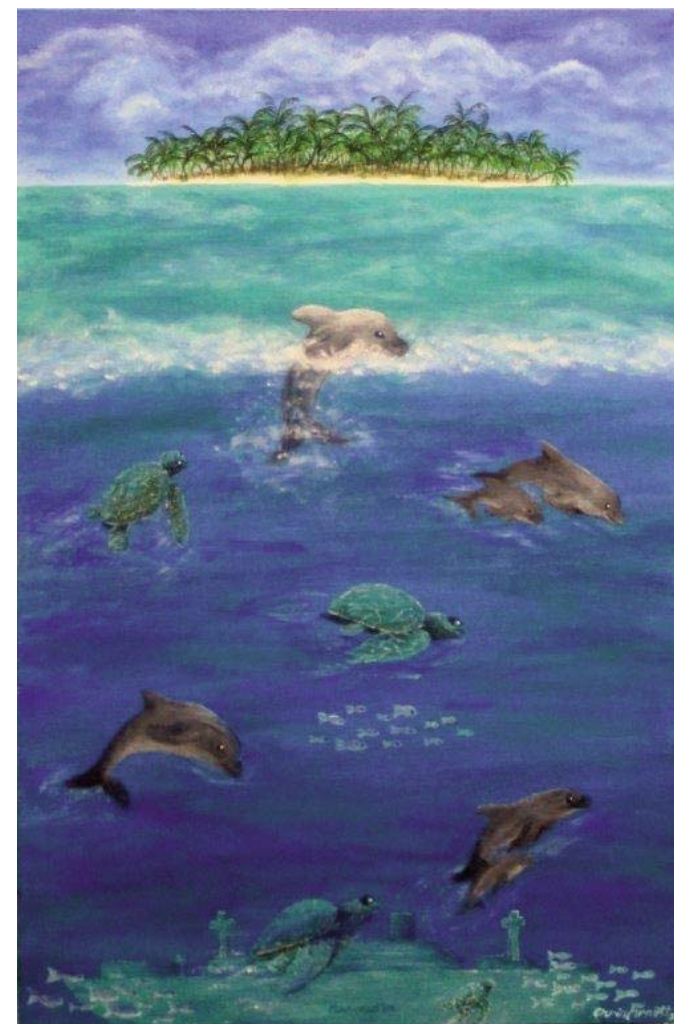
The memorial will commemorate the valour, fortitude and resilience of the Australian troops and civilians of the Australian-administered New Guinea Islands who died when left to face an overwhelming Japanese invasion in January 1942. May their spirit and courage be enduring and forever remembered by a grateful nation.

Front: *At Peace Now* - Interpretation by Christine Arnott

Back: Image of the *Montevideo Maru* from a postcard [collected by James Hook]

Note: There is a strong feeling amongst many people associated with the Society that the site of the wreck should remain undisturbed.

Montevideo Maru: A memorial to mark our worst disaster at sea



"Warmed by the embrace of the dear lost of the Montevideo Maru" - Hon Kim Beazley

Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society Inc
PO Box 1743 Neutral Bay 2089 Australia

THE STORY IN BRIEF

The relatives of service personnel and civilians who died as a result of the Japanese invasion of the New Guinea Islands in January 1942 - including over 1,000 men on the Montevideo Maru - believed the nation didn't care.

Put this into perspective: twice as many men died in this single tragedy as perished in the sinking of HMAS Sydney or were lost in the Vietnam war; and the nation was silent.

During World War II the families spent years not knowing what had happened to their men. After the war, they felt that their great personal tragedy had gone unrecognised. They came to the conclusion that Australia didn't care.

From time to time, relatives sought solace from government only to be told - in one form or another - that it had already done what it could. So there remained many hundreds of people for whom there had never been closure and who wanted recognition for the sacrifice made.

A STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

In 2009 the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society was established to represent the interests of the families of soldiers and civilians captured in Rabaul and the New Guinea Islands after the Japanese invasion in January 1942.

The purpose of the Society is to gain lasting national recognition for the men who died in the Islands, and on the Montevideo Maru when the ship was torpedoed off the Philippines on 1 July 1942.

The Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society is a not for profit association.

WHAT WE WANT TO DO

1. Commemorate the tragedy of the fall of Rabaul and the sinking of the Montevideo Maru through the construction of a memorial at the Australian War Memorial.
2. Provide greater knowledge to Australians of events in the New Guinea Islands during World War II.
3. Take action to declare the site of the sinking an official war grave.
4. Locate the nominal roll brought back to Australia from Japan that is believed to include the names of all the prisoners on board the Montevideo Maru.
5. Provide a focal point for the families and relatives of the victims of these events in World War II.

WHAT WE'VE ALREADY ACHIEVED

The initial activity of the Society, which is incorporated in the Australian Capital Territory, was to establish the means by which relatives and friends associated with the events in the New Guinea Islands in World War II could come together to establish and pursue common cause.

The Society was opened to any person related to or interested in this issue. Membership is \$50 a year and members receive a monthly newsletter, Memorial News, as well as receiving invitations to Society events. All funds raised are dedicated to the construction of the Canberra memorial. The Society now has over 450 members.

After conducting research into the tragedy and consulting members, the Society approached the Federal Government with the request that, after nearly seventy years, it address the issue of national recognition of this issue and so provide some closure for relatives and veterans.

On 21 June 2010, both Houses of Federal Parliament formally recognised the tragedy, paid tribute to those who had died and honoured the relatives for their long forbearance.

At the same time the Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Defence Personnel announced a grant of \$100,000 to the Society as a contribution to constructing a memorial, the total cost of which will be about \$400,000.

Since then, the Australian War Memorial has allocated land within its grounds for the construction of the memorial. The Society is working to secure the substantial sponsorships and gifts required to achieve this objective.



Proposed site of memorial

HISTORIC PARLIAMENTARY RESOLUTION Monday, 21 June 2010

That this Parliament:

- (1) Expresses the gratitude of the Australian nation to the service personnel and civilians in Rabaul and the New Guinea Islands for their services in the defence of Australia during World War II.
- (2) Expresses its regret and sorrow for the sacrifices that were made in the defence of Rabaul and the New Guinea Islands and in the subsequent sinking of the Montevideo Maru on 1 July 1942.
- (3) Conveys its condolences to the relatives and loved ones of the people who died in this conflict.
- (4) Conveys its thanks to the relatives for their forbearance and efforts in ensuring that the nation remembers the sacrifices made.

JOIN or DONATE TO THE RABAUL AND MONTEVIDEO MARU SOCIETY

You can help commemorate an important part of the history of Australia and Papua New Guinea by joining the Society or donating to the memorial.

MEMBERSHIP of the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society costs \$50 a year. The Society also offers GOLD MEMBERSHIP for \$100 a year and LIFE MEMBERSHIP for \$500.

Memorial News, the monthly newsletter is available only to members. Life Members receive a Certificate recording their special membership of the Society.

Life Members do not pay annual subscriptions and receive all Society publications and productions free of further cost.

Assistance is also needed from companies, charitable organisations and foundation boards to donate to the memorial

Donations made to the Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Society will be eligible for tax deductibility.

The Society is committed to applying all funds to the establishment of a Rabaul and Montevideo Maru Memorial.

1942 - 2012 70th ANNIVERSARY

Further enquiries E: andrea.williams@bigpond.com